

Expansion and Development of Transmission Network in Bihar

†4026. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for the development and expansion of transmission network in the State of Bihar for the current and the next year; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent for this work?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Bihar is fully covered by Radio signals. There is no scheme for expansion/development of Radio network in Bihar during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Doordarshan coverage is available all over the country, including Bihar, in statellite mode. However, terrestrial TV coverage is presently estimated to be available to about 93.3% population of the State (including the population in fringe areas). For further expansion of Doordarshan network in Bihar, fours Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs) are presently under implementation at Ramnagar, Kishanganj, Banka and Gaya (DD-2), at an approved cost of Rs. 2.97 crore. These projects are at different stages of implementation and are scheduled to be completed in phases during 2001 and 2002.

DD Deals with Various Channels

4027. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deals DD entered into with various channels to produce and sell the programmes;

(b) the revenue earned by DD from those deals;

(c) whether Government have set up any high-level committee to present the programmes on DD in a better way to fetch more advertisement and revenue and attract viewers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has furnished the following details of the agreements entered into by Doordarshan with various private TV software companies for producing and selling programmes:

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Type of agreement
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Nine Network Australia Pvt. Ltd.	(i) Agreement for telecasting certain programmes for time slots from 7.00 PM to 10.00 PM for one year on DD Metro. Expected revenue earning is Rs. 121.00 crores. (ii) A two year contract to produce the cricketing events organised by BCCI in India from February 2000 to January 2002, after inviting global bidding for the purpose. For this purpose, Prasar Bharati will pay a total sum of Rs. 18.44 crores.
2.	M/s. Buddha Films	A contract for selling air-time within the Indian territory during the telecast of the cricket matches being

1	2	3
		organised under the aegis of BCCI. The agreement is valid for a period w.e.f. January, 2000 to September, 2004. M/s. Buddha Films will be paying Prasar Bharati a total sum of Rs. 450 crores during this period
3.	M/s. Stracon-TWI	Agreement with M/s. Stracon-TWI combine for a period w.e.f. January 2000 to September, 2004 for marketing, outside India, the telecast of cricket events organised by BCCI for which Prasar Bharati will receive a sum of US \$ 43,750,000.

(c) and (d) Programme matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and Government does not interfere in them. Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan has an in-house Committee which considers all the proposals for all Doordarshan programmes keeping in view its commitments as a Public Broadcaster and the requirements of revenue generation.

Committee of Ministers for Indian Entertainment Industry

4028. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Ministers of nine States has been set up recently to look into problems of the Indian Entertainment Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific issues likely